

SEVEN GOLD



EXPRESS

January 2006

**Greetings from
Mr. DeNolf, Mrs. Sprague,
Ms. Rawson and Mrs. Suri**

We are enjoying meeting with so many parents. To date we have met with over fifty sets of parents. Our goal is to touch base with all of the parents on our team. If you would like a conference with the team please contact Kevin Denolf at kdenolf@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us.

Congratulations to all of the members of our team who have made the winter sports teams. Our team is fortunate to have representatives on the boy's basketball team, the girl's basketball team, and the cheerleading squad.

Representatives include:

Peter Tomaiolo—boy's basketball

Rachel Massad—girl's basketball

Breanna Monroe—cheerleading

Anna Tsihlis—cheerleading

Stephanie Cooke--cheerleading

Also, congratulations to all of the Gold students who competed in the Math Counts competition on January 25. This year we were fortunate to have ten students compete in the school wide competition. Students who competed in Math Counts include: **Lubana Afreen, Nidhee Krishnan, Ridhima Saxena, Stephen Caputo, Abhinav Mishra, Alexander Tyrrell, Linda Chen, Prathisha Nalamati, Rohit Jaswaney, and Joey Palomba.**

Last, but not least, we continue to celebrate kind behavior on our team. Each six-day cycle we congratulate four students whose names have been pulled from our Acts of Kindness boxes. Some recent winners include: **Adam Zarozny, Tony Breen, Nakul Patel, Michael Baron, James Lindsay, Callie Demartini, Derek Degan, John Millar, Alex Ambrose, Linda Chen, and Erica Solat.**

Curriculum Updates

Language Arts

We have finished our unit on short stories. We read some great short stories and learned many literary terms.

The students completed an eight-panel cartoon project based on a story of their choice. These projects were amazing. I was truly impressed by the creativity and the artistic ability of the students on 7 Gold. Many of the cartoon projects have been used as exemplars by other teams. I'm so proud to be associated with these students.

In mid-January we will be beginning units on descriptive writing and a novel on apartheid called *Waiting for the Rain*. With these units we will be sharpening our skills in the areas of reading comprehension, grammar, and writing in preparation for the MCAS in March.

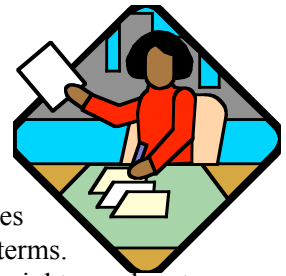
Social Studies

Social Studies are moving along quite quickly! Although it may seem like we've been in Africa forever, we have gone through the five regions of Africa and are now heading into Southwest Asia (primarily the Middle East). We will be covering the economies, land, government, and cultures of these countries.

Aside from learning about South America, Africa, and now Southwest Asia, we also spent class time on three competitions and/or tests; The National Geography Bee, The National Current Events Leagues exam, and the Africa common assessment. The winner of the National Geography Bee on team was Kevin Chen, and our runners-up were Brendan Barry, Linda Chen, and Jonathan Sternburg.

Throughout the second and third trimesters we will be discussing Asia and Europe. If there is any parent who wishes to come and speak about life in a particular country, please feel free to do so. We encourage guest speakers because there is so much culture and knowledge to share from around the world!

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Communication is our Priority

Our team believes that communication between parents and teachers is an essential ingredient to insuring success for our students. We have several ways of communicating with you about information that pertains to the team:

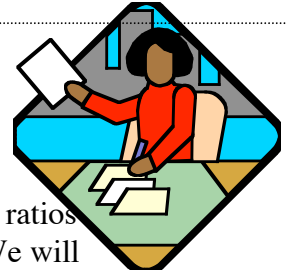
⇒Monday Folders – Each Monday an envelope will come home with your child. Sign it and return any papers necessary with the folder the next day.

⇒Newsletter – This newsletter will be sent home periodically.

The teachers of 7 Gold feel that it is important that parents are provided with information that is specific to your child's successes and struggles. We encourage you to send in a note or email us if you have a specific concern or question. If you need to come in and meet with us we can set up a teacher conference during school hours.

Email: kdenolf@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
csprague@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
crawson@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us
ssuri@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Curriculum Updates



Math

We just wrapped up the ratios and proportions unit. We will spend a few weeks on proportions, similarity and percents and then finish the trimester with Data Analysis. We have also started to work on the long-term project that will be due on February 1st. In the project the students will be designing their dream bedrooms to scale.

Science

We have just wrapped up evolution with the Adaptation Power point presentations. Overall, they were excellent presentations. The students put a lot of class time and effort into their presentations. Next, we will be moving on to Cells. There will be a Cell Project assigned and due in February. Also, we will be going to the Worcester Foundation for a lab. We will be going on February 27th and 28th. More information will be available in the next couple of weeks. We will be extracting and spooling DNA from onion cells. It is a fun and enriching experience for the students.

Patriot's Pride Day



ACTS OF KINDNESS

We want to focus this year on respect: respect of one's feelings, rights, and property. We are going to have Acts of Kindness cards in each of our rooms for both teachers and for the students to fill out. When they or we witness an act of kindness done by a student, a card can be filled out for that student which describes the kind act. Cards are put in baskets in all classroom and, during each Team Time; we will draw one of those cards and recognize that person. Recognition includes a verbal recognition (by reading the card aloud to the rest of the team) and some sort of treat or reward (such as candy or a snack, or a special pencil or other classroom object).